

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES MARCH 2003



Assistance sought from multi-location employers!

Employers with operations in multiple locations (worksites) in Wisconsin, who do not report the number of workers at each location are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR). The MWR are sent to employers during the first quarter by Wisconsin's **Bureau of Workforce Information**. These supplement the data that employers provide on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Contribution Report. Similar to the unemployment report, the employment and wage data collected in this survey is confidential and used only for statistical and analytical studies, Unemployment Insurance Program purposes, and the Dislocated Worker Program. Employers benefit because data can be used to assist business planners with new sites location, economic forecasting, and wage analysis. For more information, or assistance on the MWR, contact Deborah Holt at 608.266.5321

Little change in February labor force equals good news as February usually brings slightly higher rates than January!

Kenosha MSA's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was unchanged from last month at 6.3 percent. It is also unchanged from last February's rate as well.

February industry figures in Kenosha MSA show a net rebound of 670 more jobs than in January. Service producing industries composed growth this month as is usual in February when goods-producing industries are in a mode that is particularly slower than average. Education and Health Services shows the largest monthly gain and government employment showed the expected rebound combining for nearly 1,000 additional jobs. This growth is almost entirely related to later than usual post-holiday, K-12 schools, college and university employment reporting. Most other industries in Kenosha County show slight loss except for professional and business services, which posted 30 more jobs in February.

Walworth County's February unemployment rate is 5.7 percent, which is up two-tenths of a point over the month and is lower than last February's rate by six-tenths of a percentage point

Walworth County, the smallest of the three regional counties, posted the largest, net monthly gain of 870 jobs, bolstered by the 1,060 job gain in government employment, which like in many Wisconsin counties, is a reflection of publicly owned

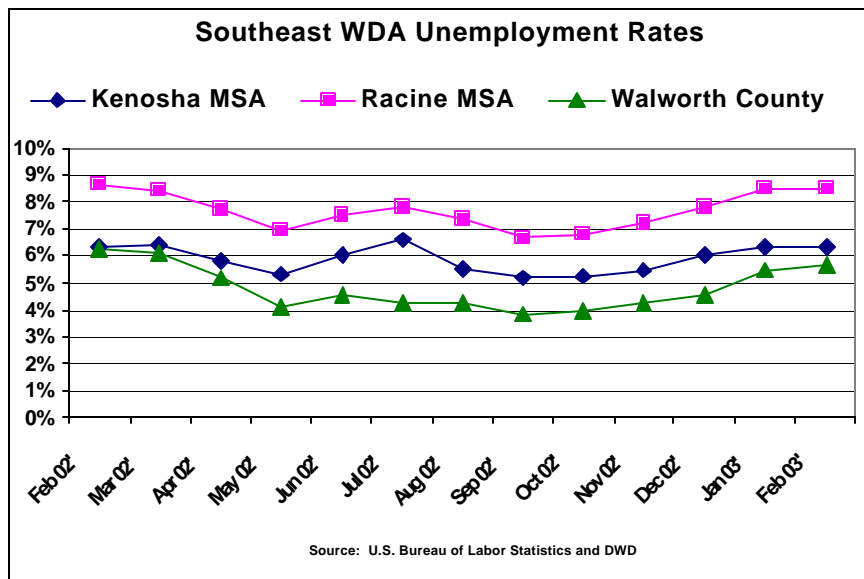
school district and higher educational institutions' post-holiday employment reporting. Only slight growth was seen in some other industries during this monthly period. Financial activities and health services added about 10 jobs each. Annually, Walworth shows a net deficit of about 350 jobs compared to February 2002; this despite large growth in leisure and hospitality

and education and health services employment, which show a combined 760 new jobs or seven percent more jobs than last February. The trade sector, the government sector and the information, professional and business services and other services sector show considerable annual job loss. Manufacturing employment shows a 20 job gain.

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is also

unchanged in February at 8.5 percent. It is lower than Last February's rate by one-tenth of a percent point.

Racine MSA monthly industry figures indicate slight growth with the aforementioned government (schools employment) growth as in other regional counties. Professional and business services also showed a considerable increase in employment. Retail trade showed a typical reduction in February employment. It is not uncommon for retail trade to slowly reduce post-holiday employment. March data may show gains in this industry. Racine County was the only regional county to show annual job growth, albeit a slight increase. Professional and business services; trade; government and construction were the foundation of job growth. Construction in Racine County was the only goods producing sector in the region to show annual growth.



February 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
Civilian Labor Force*	3,080,285	84,093	96,287	54,329	234,709	49,735	40,286
Persons Employed	2,881,775	78,813	88,073	51,245	218,131	46,085	35,201
Persons Unemployed	198,510	5,280	8,214	3,084	16,578	3,650	5,085
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.3%	8.5%	5.7%	7.1%	7.3%	12.6%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,731,191	52,922	79,238	39,824	171,984		
Goods Producing Jobs	622,284	12,539	23,470	9,939	45,948		
Service Producing Jobs	2,108,907	40,383	55,768	29,885	126,036		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	105,544	1,956	3,391	1,350	6,697		
All Manufacturing	516,740	10,583	20,079	8,589	39,251		
Total Trade	421,133	8,712	12,453	4,909	26,074		
Wholesale Trade	113,775	1,909	2,993	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	307,358	6,803	9,460	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	103,953	1,634	1,826	1,200	4,660		
Financial Activities	152,951	1,577	2,496	939	5,012		
Education and Health Services	360,777	7,682	10,083	3,989	21,754		
Leisure & Hospitality	223,611	5,477	5,731	7,042	18,250		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	422,189	6,208	12,131	4,171	22,510		
Information	49,699	427	746	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	235,782	3,099	6,630	xx	xx		
Other Services	136,708	2,682	4,755	xx	xx		
All Government	424,293	9,093	11,048	7,635	27,776		
Change from January 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	12,810	1,210	200	1,200	2,610	710	-30
Persons Employed	6,620	1,150	140	1,030	2,330	670	60
Persons Unemployed	6,190	60	60	160	280	40	-90
Unemployment Rate	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	10,210	670	150	870	1,680		
Goods Producing Jobs	-6,810	-160	-200	-100	-460		
Service Producing Jobs	17,020	830	350	960	2,140		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3,010	-70	-110	-50	-220		
All Manufacturing	-3,800	-90	-90	-50	-230		
Total Trade	-4,580	-50	-150	-40	-240		
Wholesale Trade	-810	-10	-10	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-3,770	-40	-140	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	290	-20	-20	-20	-50		
Financial Activities	-160	-10	-10	10	-10		
Education and Health Services	2,810	760	20	10	780		
Leisure & Hospitality	-2,200	-70	-70	-110	-260		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	500	10	160	60	220		
Information	-780	0	-10	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	1,580	30	190	xx	xx		
Other Services	-300	-20	-20	xx	xx		
All Government	20,350	210	420	1,060	1,690		
Change from February 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	67,630	1,670	2,670	280	4,630	910	1,270
Persons Employed	74,310	1,570	2,550	570	4,690	920	1,020
Persons Unemployed	-6,680	100	120	-290	-60	-20	250
Unemployment Rate	-0.4%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	13,380	-130	710	-350	220		
Goods Producing Jobs	-12,790	-730	-320	-130	-1,190		
Service Producing Jobs	26,170	600	1,030	-220	1,410		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3,470	-100	170	-150	-80		
All Manufacturing	-9,320	-640	-490	20	-1,110		
Total Trade	-1,450	210	280	-290	200		
Wholesale Trade	1,080	-130	-10	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	-2,530	340	290	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,840	30	-10	-90	-70		
Financial Activities	1,230	-10	-10	-100	-120		
Education and Health Services	8,460	610	-70	330	860		
Leisure & Hospitality	2,910	-590	-90	430	-240		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	10,400	370	340	-250	460		
Information	-1,640	20	-60	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	6,300	250	290	xx	xx		
Other Services	5,740	100	100	xx	xx		
All Government	2,780	-30	600	-260	310		

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

"XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Market Economist**

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